NAME
aliases − Postfix local alias database format

SYNOPSIS
newaliases

DESCRIPTION
The **aliases(5)** table provides a system−wide mechanism to redirect mail for local recipients. The redirections are processed by the Postfix **local(8)** delivery agent.

Normally, the **aliases(5)** table is specified as a text file that serves as input to the **postalias(1)** command. The result, an indexed file in **dbm** or **db** format, is used for fast lookup by the mail system. Execute the command **newaliases** in order to rebuild the indexed file after changing the Postfix alias database.

When the table is provided via other means such as NIS, LDAP or SQL, the same lookups are done as for ordinary indexed files.

Alternatively, the table can be provided as a regular−expression map where patterns are given as regular expressions. In this case, the lookups are done in a slightly different way as described below under "REGULAR EXPRESSION TABLES".

Users can control delivery of their own mail by setting up **.forward** files in their home directory. Lines in per−user **.forward** files have the same syntax as the right−hand side of **aliases(5)** entries.

The format of the alias database input file is as follows:

- An alias definition has the form

    name: *value1*, *value2*, ...

- Empty lines and whitespace−only lines are ignored, as are lines whose first non−whitespace character is a '#'.

- A logical line starts with non−whitespace text. A line that starts with whitespace continues a logical line.

The *name* is a local address (no domain part). Use double quotes when the name contains any special characters such as whitespace, '#', ':', or '@'. The *name* is folded to lowercase, in order to make database lookups case insensitive.

In addition, when an alias exists for **owner−***name*, this will override the envelope sender address, so that delivery diagnostics are directed to **owner−***name*, instead of the originator of the message (for details, see **owner_request_special**, **expand_owner_alias** and **reset_owner_alias**). This is typically used to direct delivery errors to the maintainer of a mailing list, who is in a better position to deal with mailing list delivery problems than the originator of the undelivered mail.

The *value* contains one or more of the following:

address Mail is forwarded to *address*, which is compatible with the RFC 822 standard.

/file/name
Mail is appended to */file/name*. See **local(8)** for details of delivery to file. Delivery is not limited to regular files. For example, to dispose of unwanted mail, deflect it to **/dev/null**.

|command
Mail is piped into *command*. Commands that contain special characters, such as whitespace, should be enclosed between double quotes. See **local(8)** for details of delivery to command.

When the command fails, a limited amount of command output is mailed back to the sender. The file **/usr/include/sysexits.h** defines the expected exit status codes. For example, use **"|exit 67"** to simulate a "user unknown" error, and **"|exit 0"** to implement an expensive black hole.

:include:*/file/name*
Mail is sent to the destinations listed in the named file. Lines in **:include:** files have the same syntax as the right−hand side of alias entries.

A destination can be any destination that is described in this manual page. However, delivery to "|*command*" and */file/name* is disallowed by default. To enable, edit the **allow_mail_to_commands** and **allow_mail_to_files** configuration parameters.

ADDRESS EXTENSION

When alias database search fails, and the recipient localpart contains the optional recipient delimiter (e.g., *user+foo*), the search is repeated for the unextended address (e.g., *user*).

The **propagate_unmatched_extensions** parameter controls whether an unmatched address extension (+*foo*) is propagated to the result of table lookup.

CASE FOLDING

The local(8) delivery agent always folds the search string to lowercase before database lookup.

REGULAR EXPRESSION TABLES

This section describes how the table lookups change when the table is given in the form of regular expressions. For a description of regular expression lookup table syntax, see **regexp_table(5)** or **pcre_table(5)**. NOTE: these formats do not use ":" at the end of a pattern.

Each regular expression is applied to the entire search string. Thus, a search string *user+foo* is not broken up into *user* and *foo*.

Regular expressions are applied in the order as specified in the table, until a regular expression is found that matches the search string.

Lookup results are the same as with indexed file lookups. For security reasons there is no support for **$1**, **$2** etc. substring interpolation.

SECURITY

The **local(8)** delivery agent disallows regular expression substitution of $1 etc. in **alias_maps**, because that would open a security hole.

The **local(8)** delivery agent will silently ignore requests to use the **proxymap(8)** server within **alias_maps**. Instead it will open the table directly. Before Postfix version 2.2, the **local(8)** delivery agent will terminate with a fatal error.

CONFIGURATION PARAMETERS

The following **main.cf** parameters are especially relevant. The text below provides only a parameter summary. See **postconf(5)** for more details including examples.

alias_database (see 'postconf -d' output)
> The alias databases for **local(8)** delivery that are updated with "**newaliases**" or with "**sendmail −bi**".

alias_maps (see 'postconf -d' output)
> The alias databases that are used for **local(8)** delivery.

allow_mail_to_commands (alias, forward)
> Restrict **local(8)** mail delivery to external commands.

allow_mail_to_files (alias, forward)
> Restrict **local(8)** mail delivery to external files.

expand_owner_alias (no)
> When delivering to an alias "*aliasname*" that has an "owner−*aliasname*" companion alias, set the envelope sender address to the expansion of the "owner−*aliasname*" alias.

propagate_unmatched_extensions (canonical, virtual)
> What address lookup tables copy an address extension from the lookup key to the lookup result.

owner_request_special (yes)
> Enable special treatment for owner−*listname* entries in the **aliases(5)** file, and don't split owner−*listname* and *listname*−request address localparts when the recipient_delimiter is set to "−".

recipient_delimiter (empty)

      The set of characters that can separate a user name from its extension (example: user+foo), or a .forward file name from its extension (example: .forward+foo).

Available in Postfix version 2.3 and later:

frozen_delivered_to (yes)

      Update the **local(8)** delivery agent's idea of the Delivered−To: address (see prepend_delivered_header) only once, at the start of a delivery attempt; do not update the Delivered−To: address while expanding aliases or .forward files.

STANDARDS

      RFC 822 (ARPA Internet Text Messages)

SEE ALSO

      local(8),
      local delivery agent
      newaliases(1),
      create/update alias database
      postalias(1),
      create/update alias database
      postconf(5),
      configuration parameters

README FILES

      Use "**postconf readme_directory**" or "**postconf html_directory**" to locate this information.
      DATABASE_README, Postfix lookup table overview

LICENSE

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